

On the basis of the above amendment and remarks, consideration of the application and its allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any addition questions, he is respectfully encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 622-4900.

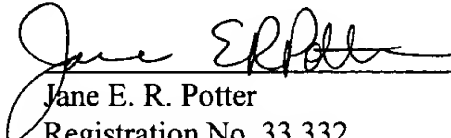


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Respectfully submitted,

Seed Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC


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WPN: 100084\415US\Continuation Application\Preliminary Amendment

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

The title has been changed as follows:

STREPTOCOCCAL ALPHA ZM BINDING PROTEIN

The following paragraph was added:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. § 111(a) of International Patent Application No. PCT/GB99/03631 filed November 2, 1999, now pending, which application claims the benefit of United Kingdom Patent Application No. 9823975.9 filed November 2, 1998, which applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

In the claims:

Claim 19 has been cancelled.

Claims 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, and 21 are amended as follows:

8. A protein according to claim 1 [or claim 2] further comprising one or more tandem repeats having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a variant thereof.
8. A protein according to [any one of] claim[s] 1[, 2 or 3] further comprising a cell membrane anchor region together with a hydrophobic transmembrane region.
8. A protein according to [any preceding] claim 1 consisting of the amino acid sequence of any of SEQ ID NOS:1 to 11 or a variant thereof.

8. A peptide according to claim 6 [or 7] which is capable of generating an immune response against group A streptococcus.

9. A peptide according to claim 6 [or 7] which binds α_2 M.

10. A peptide according to claim 6 [or 7] comprising the acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or a variant of the said sequence.

13. A DNA sequence which codes for a protein or peptide according to [any preceding] claim 1, said DNA sequence being selected from:

(a) the DNA sequence of any of SEQ ID NOS:12 to 16 or the complementary strands thereof;

(b) DNA sequences which selectively hybridize the DNA sequences defined in (a) or fragments thereof; and

(c) DNA sequences which, but for the degeneracy of the genetic code, would hybridize to the DNA sequences defined in (a) or (b) and which sequences code for a protein or peptide having the same amino acid sequence.

17. A process of producing a protein or peptide according to [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 12], comprising culturing a host cell as defined in claim 15 [or 16] under conditions to provide for expression of the desired protein or peptide.

21. An antibody capable of binding to a peptide or protein according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 12].